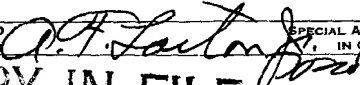


# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OMAHA**

FILE NO. **91-313 11h**

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> <p style="text-align: center;">HOUSTON, TEXAS</p>	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> <p style="text-align: center;">2/15/51</p>	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> <p style="text-align: center;">1/25,30,31;2/1, 2,3,5,6,8,9/51</p>	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> <p style="text-align: center;">ROBERT B. MILLER, SA</p>
<b>TITLE</b> <p><b>KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was. - FUGITIVE</b>  <b>I. O. #2394; LAURENS STATE BANK,</b>  <b>LAURENS, IOWA; NOVEMBER 3, 1950</b></p>			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <p><b>BANK ROBBERY</b>  <b>(ROBBERY AND BURGLARY)</b>  <b>ESCAPE AND RESCUE</b></p>
<b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> <div style="float: right; text-align: right;">b6 b7C</div> <p>Stops placed with airlines, Mexican Consul, U. S. Customs, local and state police following receipt of information KITTS had escaped from County Jail, Cedar Rapids, Iowa were removed following his apprehension 2/8/51. KITTS was in Houston, July, 1950, with [redacted] of Sioux City, Iowa registered at Shamrock Hotel 7/24/50 until 7/27/50. Visited night clubs in Galveston and Dickinson, Texas, both near Houston, and [redacted] visited with friends and relatives in Houston and Galveston, and introduced KITTS to them. Operator of gambling establishment, Dickinson, Texas, identifies photograph of KITTS as person who applied to him for job as dice dealer September or October, 1950.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:      <u>AT HOUSTON, TEXAS:</u></b></p> <p>Immediately upon receipt of information that KITTS had escaped from the Linn County Jail, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on either January 22nd or 23rd, 1951, stops were placed with all airline companies in Houston and its territory which could conceivably be contacted by KITTS as a prospective passenger for passage to Mexico or any South American country.</p> <p>It will be noted that Braniff Airlines is the only airline operating out of Houston which flies direct to Mexico or any foreign country from Houston, Chicago</p>			
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED</b> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>A. F. Linton</b>  <small>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</small> </div>		<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b>	
<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">COPY IN FILE</div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>2 - Bureau  3 - Omaha (1-USA, Omaha)  2 - Houston</p>		<div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">SE 19</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">RECORDED - 130</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">EX-60</div>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

COPIES DESTROYED  
650 SEP 23 1967

HO. 91-313

[ ] stated that it was in the Summer of 1950 that [ ] was in Houston and was accompanied by a man by the name of KITTS whom he introduced by that name. He stated [ ] and KITTS, while in Houston for a short period of time, were registered at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston. They were traveling in a Cadillac automobile owned by [ ] and both of them inquired of him, [ ] as to where or how they might purchase another new Cadillac. [ ] stated he endeavored to obtain such an automobile through his contacts in Houston, but was unsuccessful. He stated that when they finally left Houston, they left word with him that should he be successful in locating a Cadillac automobile, he should communicate with a dealer in Omaha, Nebraska. The name of the dealer could not be recalled by [ ] and he searched through his files in an effort to obtain the card left with him, but was unsuccessful in locating same.

[ ] stated that at the time [ ] and KITTS were in Houston as mentioned hereinabove, they advised him that they had been on a long trip starting from Sioux City and traveling by way of Las Vegas, Nevada, where they visited the Flamingo Club, and mentioned having met and spent some time with some girls not further identified at Las Vegas.

It will be noted that previous to the interview with [ ] interviews were had with his employer and it was ascertained that he is a reputable individual in Houston.

[ ] stated that [ ] and [ ] live at [ ] is employed in Houston by a division of U. S. Steel known as the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company. He stated that [ ] is employed as a nurse in charge of the obstetrics room at Memorial Hospital. She is a [ ] of [ ]

[ ] stated that while [ ] and KITTS were in Houston, they expressed a desire to visit some of the night spots in Galveston and Galveston County, and that [ ] arranged for [ ] at Memorial Hospital, and the latter arranged for [ ] to accompany KITTS and [ ] on the occasion of their visits to the night clubs last mentioned. [ ] stated his [ ] accompanied him on the occasions when he accompanied KITTS and [ ] He said that he knew nothing concerning KITTS other than the

HO. 91-313

fact that [ ] had introduced him as being a friend of his, and recalled that while they were in the Balinese Room at Galveston, a night club and gambling establishment, KITTS, learning that he, [ ] was a former practicing attorney, sought his advice concerning a state case which KITTS currently has on appeal, and mentioned that [ ] was a prominent criminal attorney of Omaha known to [ ] was representing him, and [ ] stated that he suggested to KITTS that he follow the advice of [ ] and no further discussion was had with him by KITTS concerning his difficulties with the law.

[ ] likewise pointed out that while in company with [ ] and KITTS, they talked by long distance telephone to BENNY BARRONE or BARONI, who operates a night club known as the Last Chance, near Council Bluff, Iowa. [ ] suggested that both [ ] and BARRONE be interviewed, but at the same time confidentially advised that he did not believe either of them would be very cooperative in view of the type of activity in which they are currently engaged, namely the operation of night clubs where gambling is reputed to be tolerated.

[ ] stated that while at the Balinese Room in Galveston, [ ] endeavored to have a \$15000.00 check cashed by subordinates of [ ] of the Balinese Room. He pointed out that he does not believe he was successful in this amount, but possibly secured a lesser amount from this club. [ ] stated that he, [ ] and KITTS accompanied by [ ] and his [ ] and on one occasion by [ ] and [ ] were at the Balinese Room on two different occasions in Galveston. One night after leaving the Balinese Room, they went to a club named Omar Khay Yam and while at this club, KITTS, [ ] and other members of the party talked by long distance telephone to BENNY BARRONE mentioned hereinbefore. [ ] stated that KITTS did not appear to know anyone in Houston or Galveston other than the relatives of [ ] and persons to whom he was introduced by [ ]

[ ] was furnished with a wanted flyer of KITTS and stated that should he receive any information whatever concerning KITTS, he would immediately communicate with the Houston Office on a confidential basis.

[ ] were interviewed at their residence at [ ] and confirmed information heretofore

HQ. 91-313

supplied by [ ] concerning KITTS' visit to Houston in the Summer of 1950. Both stated that they met KITTS for the first time on this occasion and were friendly with him since he was introduced by [ ] as being a friend of the latter. [ ] stated that she had received a telephone call originating in Dallas, Texas from [ ] advising her that he and KITTS were enroute to Houston and would like for her to secure dates for them. She advised that she was acquainted with [ ] at Memorial Hospital, and contacted her, who in turn contacted a friend, [ ] and that these two young ladies accompanied KITTS and [ ] to Dickinson, Texas where they stopped at the Silver Moon, a cafe and gambling establishment operated by [ ] Interests of Galveston, Texas. They thereafter proceeded to Galveston, Texas where they visited the places described hereinabove by [ ]

[ ] pointed out that [ ] had a date with [ ] and that [ ] had a date with KITTS, but that it appeared to them that KITTS was quite fond of [ ] and had communicated with her the following day by telephone and attempted to arrange a date with her for the following night, but due to previous commitments, she could not accompany them, hence [ ] accompanied them on the second occasion that they went to Galveston. Both [ ] stated that they did not believe either of the girls had heard from KITTS and had no particular interest in him other than the fact that she accompanied him at their suggestion.

[ ] stated that [ ] is an [ ] and that he was possibly contacted by [ ] while in Galveston with KITTS. [ ] stated that her mother, [ ] lives in [ ] with her [ ] the latter a [ ] and that these two persons were visited by [ ] possibly in company with KITTS on the occasion of their visit in Houston in the Summer of 1950.

[ ] stated that they frankly believe that should KITTS return to this section of the country, he would not contact either [ ] or any of [ ] other relatives in Houston, but that he conceivably might contact them and they stated that should they hear from him in any fashion, they would immediately contact the Houston Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Through the cooperation of [ ]  
[ ] of the Shamrock Hotel, and [ ]

HO. 91-313

[redacted] for the hotel, it was learned that KITTS under the name of K. A. KITTS and one [redacted] were registered at the Shamrock Hotel July 24, 1950 and checked out on July 27, 1950. It was noted that [redacted] name was not spelled in the hotel's records in accordance with the spelling furnished by his relatives and other persons in Houston. [redacted] gave his address as [redacted] and KITTS gave his address as [redacted]

The records of the hotel indicated that [redacted] and KITTS made several long distance telephone calls which were recorded as follows:

On 7/24/50, KITTS placed a long distance call to Knoxville, Tennessee, No. 27252. Later the same date he called this same number asking for [redacted]

On July 25, 1950, KITTS placed a long distance call to No. W 8934, Omaha, Nebraska.

On 7/25/50, [redacted] called long distance to No. 50514, Sioux City; to [redacted] No. 8732; to BENNY BARRONE No. 9840, Council Bluff, Iowa; to [redacted] at No. JA 0007, Omaha, Nebraska.

On 7/26/50, KITTS called long distance to W 8934, Omaha, Nebraska.

On 7/27/50, [redacted] called long distance to 82627, Sioux City, Iowa; to 9840 Council Bluff; to 73190 Dickinson, Texas; to 58834 Sioux City; to 73030, Dickinson, and to J 8884, Omaha, Nebraska.

Likewise at the Shamrock, [redacted] and KITTS made numerous local telephone calls in Houston, and the persons who were called were contacted with one exception, same being a woman by the name of [redacted] whose number appears to have been called according to hotel records by either KITTS or [redacted] on July 25, 1950.

It will be noted that several of the numbers called by KITTS and [redacted] denied having received calls from them and denied any acquaintanceship or knowledge of them. He pointed out that very likely the



LA 91-1003

The Omaha Office also advised on February 3, 1951 that they had contacted an informant who advised them that [redacted] and BENNY BARONE had sometime back suggested to an individual who was wanted by a law enforcement agency to contact [redacted] at the Atlantic Club in Compton, California. Investigation concerning [redacted] reflected that he was presently operating the bookie establishment at 6951 South Central, Los Angeles. He is presently residing at [redacted]

[redacted] and his [redacted] were interviewed at their home, at which time they both denied knowing subject or ever having seen him. They both stated that they had left the Omaha area some six or eight years ago, and that they were not presently acquainted with any individuals who had been at that location prior to their departure. [redacted] stated that in addition to himself and his [redacted] another Omaha resident, [redacted] was residing with him.

[redacted] was subsequently contacted, at which time he advised that he had last seen subject about four or five months ago. [redacted] stated that he had [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] who operate the Turf Cigar Store in Omaha. He stated that he had been in Omaha from January 1, 1951 until January 23, 1951. During this period of time he was in frequent touch with BENNY BARONE. BARONE advised [redacted] of the difficulties of subject KITTS, PASQUALE, ~~ELCASTRO~~, and [redacted] [redacted] also stated that he had been in telephonic contact on two or three occasions since his return to Los Angeles with his brothers in Omaha. He stated the brothers informed him of subject KITTS' escape, and that in the event he was contacted by him, he would immediately notify this office.

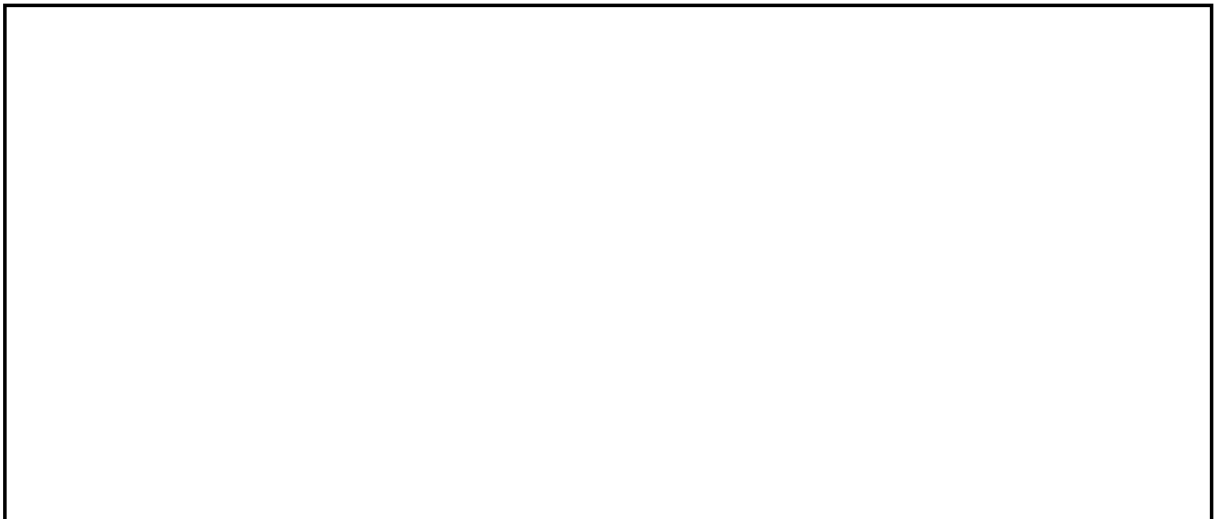
[redacted] and [redacted] of the Atlantic Club, 11801 South Atlantic Boulevard, Compton, California, advised that he was not acquainted with subject nor had anyone answering his description been in his bar during the past few weeks. [redacted] stated that he was formerly identified with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, and that in the event subject appeared at this location he would immediately advise this office.

Inasmuch as there is no further investigation to be conducted in this territory at this time, this case is being considered REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

OM 76-752



[redacted] advised that he was a prisoner at the Linn County Jail from December 24, 1950 to December 26, 1950. He stated that while he was in the Linn County Jail, he was in cell block # 4 with prisoner YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY. [redacted] stated that on the day he was released from the Linn County Jail, HARDY asked him to telephone The Last Chance, a cafe and tavern at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and to ask for "BENNIE". The call was to be made collect and [redacted] was to tell BENNIE that HARDY wanted him to get over to Cedar Rapids to the County Jail and see him immediately as it was important to both of them. [redacted] was to then call HARDY's wife in Tyler, Texas, collect and tell her that HARDY was in the County Jail at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and that everything was all right. [redacted] stated that at no time while he was incarcerated with HARDY in the Linn County Jail, did HARDY mention that KITTS would probably be brought to the Linn County Jail nor did he mention any thing concerning his association with KITTS or plans for them to escape from the jail.



OM 76-752

INTERVIEW WITH YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY, ACCOMPLICE OF KITTS

YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY was interviewed on a number of occasions between January 23, 1951 and January 30, 1951. It should be noted that HARDY stated he was not in any way admitting that he was closely associated with KITTS in view of the fact that he was intending to stand trial on the Laurens, Iowa, bank burglary case. He said, however, he would endeavor to assist the Omaha Office in revealing any information which he had which would relate to the individuals or places the fugitive might go after his escape.

HARDY stated, on January 23, 1951, that KITTS was out of his cell block sometime after 2:00 p.m. on January 22, 1951, at the Linn County Jail. In fact, KITTS personally contacted HARDY at cell block # 4 and visited with him for several minutes. HARDY said as he recalls this was around 6:00 p.m. on January 22, 1951. HARDY commented that as soon as he saw KITTS loose his first remark to him was "what in the hell are you doing out?". KITTS told HARDY that the jailer EARL BAILEY had apparently forgotten to lock him up and in a jokingly manner said "I suppose they intend to make me a trusty here". KITTS told HARDY that he had been out of his cell block for several hours and it appeared that no one was going to lock him up. He mentioned the fact that there was a possibility he might be able to escape. HARDY related that KITTS left cell block # 4 for a short time after the first contact with him and later returned and mentioned something about "I am going to make a break for it". KITTS did not mention any particulars however he did suggest that if HARDY desired to go with him he would formulate some plan in which KITTS would get the jailer under threat and bring him to HARDY's cell block and make him open the cell door. HARDY inquired of KITTS how this would be done and the latter said "I will obtain a pair of scissors upstairs and go down and get the jailer and threaten to cut his throat if he does not come up and unlock the cell block door". HARDY revealed that the scissors referred to were apparently those used by [redacted] another inmate, who was a barber by trade and had been permitted by jail officials to cut the prisoners hair.

HARDY stated that he advised KITTS that he did not desire to go out of the jail since it would make it appear that he was guilty of the Federal charges but KITTS insisted that they would be able to make a clean break and probably never be caught. KITTS told HARDY that if they went out they would steal an automobile or rent a taxi cab and eventually go to Des Moines, Iowa. At Des



OM 76-752

Moines KITTS said they would wait in a warehouse near the railroad station and after being there for a short time someone would appear with an automobile and some money to assist in furthering their escape. HARDY said he believed the station referred to would be the railroad station operated by a railroad which ran between Omaha, Nebraska and Des Moines, Iowa. HARDY assumed that the person bringing the car and money would arrive in Des Moines by train. HARDY said that KITTS mentioned something about a friend at Des Moines but he denied any knowledge of any close associate of KITTS in that city. HARDY explained that he at no time was ever in Des Moines, Iowa with KITTS or other members of his gang and the only time he had any connections with that city was the time he was being removed on federal charges from Tyler, Texas, to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At this time HARDY was transported by the United States Marshals by train through Des Moines, Iowa.

Due to fact that he had very few contacts himself in the vicinity of Cedar Rapids or Iowa in general he would not know exactly who to head for. He felt it would not be the thing to do at that time. After he had convinced KITTS that he did not care to go with him, KITTS soon left cell block # 4 and that was the last time that he had seen him. HARDY said that he later learned through jail talk that KITTS had gone out shortly after he had been to HARDY's cell block. HARDY commented that he knew that KITTS did not have too much money on him at the time and estimated it would not be more than \$5.00. He stated, however, that KITTS obtained no money from him and he did not attempt to obtain this money.

HARDY advised that he was positive that KITTS received no assistance in his escape from jail officials. He mentioned that KITTS was quite surprised that he had been inadvertently left out of his cell block and HARDY attributed the whole escape to the fact that there was great laxity in the locking of the prisoners. HARDY said that he knew EARL BAILEY, jailer, quite well having talked to him on various occasions while being confined in the Linn County Jail and his analyzation of BAILEY was that this man was apparently frightened over the fact that bank robbers were in the Linn County jail. HARDY said that BAILEY always appeared to be nervous and upset anytime that he had the occasion to handle HARDY. He said, however, that he was positive from KITTS conversation that the fugitive did not threaten BAILEY during the pertinent period.

In regard to the persons KITTS would probably contact upon effecting his escape, HARDY stated that he was positive that as soon as KITTS got out he would make a telephone call at the first possible chance to his [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] would then begin arranging a plan for money and an automobile to be taken to KITTS at Des Moines, Iowa. The "go-between" would in all probability either be [redacted], "SNOOKS" HUTTER, or BENNIE BARONE, operator of the "Last Chance", a steak house at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He related that KITTS had enough on all three of these individuals that they would definitely be obligated to assist him in his escape. HUTTER could possibly take KITTS to the State of Louisiana where he

OM 76-752

HARDY stated that if he were loose from the Linn County Jail he would be able to get with KITTS within twenty four hours. He said it would not be a matter of knowing exactly where to go at the time but all he would have to do would be go to the "Rocket" at Omaha, Nebraska, and sit there at the bar for a few minutes and he would either be contacted by BARONE, HUTTER, [redacted] or others who are close associates of KITTS. He said from this point he would probably be immediately instructed where to head out for and get with the Fugitive. HARDY commented that he knew that this would probably never be possible particularly since his bond is at \$50,000. However, he could contact his wife, MILDRED HARDY at Tyler, Texas, and she could probably obtain the same information and could later inform HARDY at the Linn County Jail. HARDY revealed that he is quite concerned over the fact that KITTS had broken from the Linn County Jail particularly since it had hurt the bank robbery case for all those concerned. He said he felt KITTS had "double crossed" him and because of this he would in no way hold out any information which would assist in the location of the Fugitive. He stated in his final interview on January 30, 1951, that he would continually think of all possibilities where KITTS would be located and would immediately get in touch with Bureau Agents on any new information coming to his mind. *Barone, Hutter*

FACTS CONCERNING AUTOMOBILE BELIEVED TO BE USED BY KITTS AFTER ESCAPE

At 8:05 p.m. on the night of January 22, 1951, [redacted] reported to the Cedar Rapids Police Department that his 1946 Hudson Club Coupe, Motor Number 3181828, bearing Iowa license 53-3266, was stolen from in front of his home sometime between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on that date. It is noted that [redacted] resides two blocks west of the Linn County Jail which is also considered to be on [redacted] stated in his report to the Police that his automobile contained a shotgun and a sleeveless hunting jacket at the time of the theft. This stolen automobile report was immediately relayed by police radio to the local officers as well as the State Highway Patrol but it was noted at that time there was no indication of KITTS' escape.

[redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] on January 23, 1951, that her husband is the owner of this automobile. [redacted] for the City Health Department, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She said her husband came home from work around 5:10 p.m. on January 22, 1951, and parked his car in front of their residence leaving it unlocked because he wanted to go to the store that same evening. [redacted] however, inadvertently left his keys in the ignition at the time. At approximately 8:00 p.m. on that same date, [redacted] left the house to go to the store to do some shopping, at which time he discovered instant car missing. He immediately called the police and reported same. [redacted] further advised that her [redacted] had visited them on January 22, 1951, having arrived at approximately 7:00 p.m. and left shortly thereafter, approximately 7:10 p.m. [redacted] advised that her [redacted] told her that she was quite certain that when they arrived the automobile was standing in front of the residence but when they left it was gone. She added that her sister did not think anything

Om 76-752

The personal effects of KITTS at the Linn County Jail also reflects a membership card for the year 1949 at the VFW Country Club, Omaha, Nebraska. This is made out to KENNETH KITTS. On the back of this card is the address 3117 East Rosedale, Tyler, Texas, and beneath this address is the name, DOUG HARDY. Also on the back of this card is the name [redacted] followed by the number 2-4360 which is apparently a phone number. Other numbers on this card include 41809 and 27252 or the last number might be 3.

There is also a business card with the name [redacted] Burkett Motors Truck - Center, Franklin at Chenevert, Houston 2, Texas, phone Central 8483. On the back of this card in green ink is the name [redacted] followed by Linden 56585 or the number 56565.

A review of the personal effects of YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY, accomplice of KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, reflects that the only property that HARDY has consists of a few clothes in a suitcase which has been sent to him since he has been confined at the Linn County Jail and two small photographs which appear to be photographs of his children.

The effects of HARDY contain nothing of value which might indicate association of KITTS or any other contacts HARDY might have.

A review of the visitors log at the Linn County Jail, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, reflected that YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY has had one visitor since his confinement in this jail. That visitor was ROBERT BARRETT who listed his address on the jail register as 1817 South 29th. No city was listed. This visit was made to HARDY on January 5, 1951. 61  
35

Sheriff JAMES SMITH advised that he was contacted by [redacted] who is [redacted] at the Cedar Rapids Gazette in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and who also acts as a referee in prize fights throughout Iowa and Nebraska. SMITH stated that [redacted] told him that he had an individual who wanted to see HARDY. At this time [redacted] explained to SMITH that he did not know the individual who went by the name of BARRETT, however, he had been asked to call SMITH by a friend of his in Omaha, Nebraska, in order that BARRETT could see HARDY. SMITH stated that BARRETT could be described as white, age 38 to 40, weight - 190 lbs., height - 5'9", and he had the appearance of being a gambler and he smoked expensive cigars. *Robert Barrett*

[redacted] Cedar Rapids Gazette, advised that he had received a telephone call from Omaha, Nebraska, from [redacted] whom he had previously met in Omaha during his conducting prize fights and acting as referee in those prize fights and [redacted] was apparently a man who had frequented prize fighting exhibitions. [redacted] requested [redacted] to contact the Sheriff at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in order that a friend of his could see HARDY who was then confined in the Linn County Jail. [redacted] stated that [redacted] told him at this time that he would receive a telephone call at 8:00 a.m. the next day from this individual and he would appreciate all the help that FIDLER could give him. [redacted] stated that at 8:00 a.m. the next day he did receive a phone call from one ROBERT BARRETT and he later met BARRETT in person and would be

OM 76-752

able to describe and identify him in the future. [ ] stated the man who gave his name as BARRETT appeared to be a short, stocky individual, rather swarthy complexion, and appeared to be of Italian descent. [ ] also believes BARRETT is about middle aged and appeared to be bald. [ ] said that BARRETT told him that he was the operator of the "Last Chance" at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and that if he ever stopped over there he would give him a good steak.

*Bernice Boone*

In regard to the identity of ROBERT BARRETT, when YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY was interviewed, at first he denied any knowledge of the identity of this individual. Later he *intimated* that he possibly knew this individual and indicated that it was BARONE. HARDY said that the person using the name of BARRETT came to him at the Linn County Jail and was only able to speak to him through a heavy corrugated steel meshed window and he did not get a good look at the outline of this man's face. He said, however, he definitely recognized it as a person he was acquainted with. He remarked that this person only talked to him a few minutes and his comment was "you haven't said anything have you?". HARDY said he told him that he had not and BARRETT retorted with "remember, you don't know anything either if anyone asks you". BARRETT then asked HARDY how he was fixed for money and the latter said that he didn't have any at the Linn County Jail. BARRETT then said he would leave \$20.00 with the Jailer for HARDY. HARDY said it was quite obvious that the money was left there to encourage him not to say anything to the FBI or local authorities about the Laurens Bank Burglary and the Garretson, South Dakota Bank Robbery.

On January 25, 1951, Deputy Sheriff [ ] (NA), Cedar Rapids, Iowa, advised that he had received information that the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, police department had received information at 2:25 a.m., January 25, 1951, that a man and a woman at the Midway Tavern, nineteen miles west on Highway #30, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had some information on KITTS. Deputy Sheriff [ ] stated that at 3:30 a.m. on January 25, 1951, he interviewed [ ] at the Midway Station, nineteen miles west on highway # 30 from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and she stated that about 2:45 a.m. on January 23, 1951, a man drove into her gas station and obtained a cup of coffee and she gave the description of this individual as being similar to that of KITTS. [ ] advised [ ] that this individual was dressed in khaki colored shirt and pants and wore a white T shirt and was bare-headed. He had no coat or hat at this time. [ ] was shown a photograph of KITTS and she stated that this individual was the man in her station on the morning of January 23, 1951.

[ ] further stated that when this individual left she heard a car start and head out West on Highway #30. She did not see the car and could not give any description of it. She advised that **this individual did not talk** and he appeared to be very nervous.

It was first believed, at the Linn County Jail, that during the afternoon of January 23, 1951, there may have been the possibility that KITTS was discharged as another prisoner who at that time was being discharged at the Linn County Jail. It was ascertained that the prisoner discharged at the jail January 23,

OM 76-752

b6  
b7c

LEADS

THE OMAHA DIVISION

At Cedar Rapids, Iowa:

Will reinterview [ ] and [ ] inmates of Cell # 6, Linn County Jail. It is to be noted their first interview was of a negative nature.

Will conduct a character investigation regarding [ ] jailer, Linn County Jail. [ ] was the jailer on duty at the time of KITTS escape.

Will exhibit photograph of BENNIE BARONE to [ ] and to Sheriff JAMES SMITH, to ascertain if BARONE is identical with man they know as ROBERT BARRETT, the person who visited HARDY at the Linn County Jail.

Will, at the Farmers State Bank, Marion, Iowa, ascertain the details regarding the chattel mortgage of \$567.12 which Jailer [ ] made to that bank in 1949.

At Charles City, Iowa:

Will interview [ ] former inmate in YANCEY DOUGLAS HARDY's cell regarding any approach made to him by HARDY to get him to bring saw blades back to HARDY at the Linn County Jail.

REFERENCES: Teletypes from Omaha to Oklahoma City, Little Rock, Knoxville, dated January 26, 1951.  
Teletypes from Omaha to Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Oklahoma City dated January 30, 1951.

F E D E R A L B U R E A U O F I N V E S T I G A T I O N

This case originated at OMAHA

File No. 91-998

Report made at	Date when made	Period for which made	Report made by
KANSAS CITY, MO.	FEB 7 1951	1/11, 18, 23-27, 29; 2/3, 5-10/51	ROBERT F. FETZNER

b6  
b7C

BCL

Title	Character
KENNETH ALLEN KITTS, was. - FUGITIVE I. O. No. 2394; PASQUALE JOSEPH BELCASTRO, was.; [redacted] was.; [redacted] [redacted] was.; YANCY DOUGLAS HARDY, was.; DEAN ROBERT RAWLEY, was.; [redacted] [redacted] MILDRED HARDY; Laurens State Bank, Laurens, Iowa, November 3, 1950.	BANK ROBBERY-BURGLARY; INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY; ESCAPE AND RESCUE

Synopsis of Facts

Capt. [redacted] and Co-Pilot [redacted] TWA, KCMO, failed to identify photograph of [redacted] and the RAWLEYS as being passengers on TWA Flight 357, New York to St. Louis, 11/27/50. [redacted] and [redacted] however, advised photograph of [redacted] appears familiar to them and are of the opinion they may have seen an individual whose features are similar to [redacted] at Louisville, Kentucky airport restaurant on 11/27/50. Check of records, Mid-Continent Airlines, KCMO, relative to Flight 39 from

Approved and Forwarded: *J. V. Bradman* Special Agent in Charge

Copies of this report

- ② Bureau (91-5766)
- 2 Chicago (91-1022) (Info.) (1-USA)
- 2 Dallas (91-712) (Info.) (1-USA, Tyler, Texas)
- 2 Knoxville (47-719) (Info.) (1-USA)
- 2 Los Angeles (91-1003) (Info.) (1-USA)
- 3 Minneapolis (91-625) (Info.) (1-USA, Sioux Falls, S.D.)
- 2 New York (91-895) (Info.) (1-USA, SDNY)
- 2 St. Louis (87-1878) (Info.) (1-USA, EDMO)
- 6 Omaha (91-620) (1-USA, Sioux City) (1-USA, Des Moines) (1-USA, Omaha)
- 3 Kansas City

**COPY IN FILE**

**RECORDED - 124**

**G. I. R. - 7**

**INDEXED 124**

**FEB 27 1951**

**65 MAR 7 1951**

**COPIES DESTROYED  
850 SEP 13 1967**

[redacted], in charge of the Secret Service Division, Kansas City, Missouri, reviewed his files and advised that he had no information with respect to KITTS. however, he stated that in December of 1948, his office arrested one [redacted] for counterfeiting and that [redacted] was a close associate of [redacted] and had in fact, worked for [redacted]. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was presently confined at the USP, Leavenworth, Ks.

[redacted] was interviewed at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was serving a five year sentence on counterfeiting charge. He admitted close association with the Omaha hoodlums and stated that his contacts with KITTS were almost void. He pointed out that KITTS' closest friends were [redacted] and [redacted] BENNIE BARONE, [redacted] and an individual who he could not recall, but who heads up the wire service at Omaha. He also advised that [redacted], now serving a sentence at the Michigan State Penitentiary, Jackson, Michigan, was extremely close to KITTS, as was [redacted] who fenced some of KITTS' loot in Chicago, Illinois. He also advised that he thought an individual known to him as "Sleeper" in Oklahoma City, a bootlegger, and a former judge who owns a place near a lake around Pryor, Oklahoma, were acquainted with KITTS as KITTS had formerly been a bootlegger.

Records of the U. S. Penitentiary were reviewed with respect to [redacted] and no information with respect to KITTS or other known Omaha hoodlums was mentioned in his file nor was he receiving mail from any individuals of questionable character.

Lt. [redacted] in charge of the Robbery Bureau, Kansas City, Mo. Police Department, advised that KITTS and [redacted] when in Kansas City, Missouri on April 3 through April 5, 1950, stayed at the Continental Hotel. On April 8, 1950 they returned to Kansas City and checked into the Phillips Hotel and checked out on April 10, 1950. At that time [redacted] stated that KITTS had been driving a 1950 Cadillac and sometime toward the latter part of their visit in Kansas City on the aforementioned dates, [redacted] drove into town in her 1950 Cadillac.

[redacted] stated that he went to Chicago in April 1950 and interviewed both [redacted] and [redacted] with respect to the murders of CHARLES BINAGGIO and CHARLES GARGOTTA, but he received no information from them or any source in that city indicating they were involved in those murders. When KITTS and [redacted] were arrested in Chicago in April 1950, they were registered at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago. [redacted] stated he had heard that KITTS and [redacted] came to Kansas City in April 1950 to furnish a bond for [redacted]; and [redacted]



[redacted] of KITTS, furnished considerable background information relative to this fugitive which was furnished to Omaha by teletype. He said he had no data concerning KITTS' contacts or movements and had no information as to KITTS' possible whereabouts since his escape. [redacted] went to Omaha, Nebraska and visited with [redacted] and related while there, BENNY BERONE visited the KITTS home on the night of February 2, 1951 for about three hours. He also advised of [redacted] visit, as well as his visit, in South Omaha on Saturday, February 3, 1951 and he remarked that they only visited places where he or [redacted] wanted to visit in Omaha. [redacted] said that [redacted] made no contacts and remarked that her folks did not even talk to her. He said that [redacted] received many phone calls at her home, all of which seemed to be from friends. He further advised pertaining to several occasions in which [redacted] left home and this information was related to the Omaha office.

[redacted] generally known as [redacted] has been residing temporarily at St. Joseph, Missouri with [redacted] and was interviewed January 23, 1951 and said he knew nothing concerning KITTS' whereabouts except that which he had heard over the radio pertaining to KITTS' escape from Cedar Rapids, Iowa jail. He was again interviewed on February 3, 1951, at which time he stated that he absolutely had no information concerning KITTS' whereabouts and stated that he had not seen or heard from him since KITTS' escape and in addition stated that he did not want to be questioned further about KITTS. [redacted] is presently under indictment for violation of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statute in the case entitled [redacted] ET AL, ITSP, in which Kansas City is origin, as well as being under indictment for bank burglaries in South Dakota with KENNETH ALLEN KITTS. In view of [redacted] attitude [redacted] was placed under surveillance at St. Joseph, Missouri and contact was made with [redacted] of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and with [redacted] concerning coverage of the telephone and mail of not only [redacted] but of KITTS' sister, [redacted]

[redacted] St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department, whose department cooperated in this case, stated with reference to KITTS' arrest by the St. Joseph Police Department on December 1, 1950 that Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] made a search of KITTS' 1950 Cadillac convertible and stated that they did not recover any firearms in his possession or in his automobile. [redacted] stated that he had received information in the past that KITTS had a secret compartment in his automobile to carry guns and that he therefore issued special instructions to make sure that they locate any guns that might be in KITTS' possession or automobile.